

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9-12, 16-18, and 87, and allowed claims 6-8 and 13-15. By the present Response, the Applicants cancelled claims 1 and 87 and amended claims 2-5, 9-12, 16, and 18 to expedite allowance of the present application. Specifically, the Applicants changed the dependency of claims 2-5, 9-12, 16, and 18 from *rejected* independent claim 1 to *allowed* independent claim 6. Thus, the pending claims 2-18 are all in condition for allowance. For these reasons, the Applications respectfully request allowance of the present application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As noted above, the Applicants cancelled claim 87 to expedite allowance of the present application. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

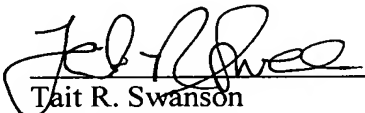
The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9-12, 16-18, and 87 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Koshio (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,143) in view of Chappo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,195). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed in the previous response among other reasons. However, as discussed above, the Applicants amended the claims to expedite allowance of the present application. Specifically, the Applicants cancelled claims 1 and 87 and changed the dependency of claims 2-5, 9-12, 16, and 18 from rejected independent claim 1 to allowed independent claim 6. Accordingly, the foregoing rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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